

Department of Correction Topic Overview

November 10, 2011 JPS Oversight Committee

1. Release Dates and Earned Time Policies

S.L. 2011-145, Appropriations Act of 2011, (Committee Report, Page I-27, Item 81), reduced the Department of Correction (DOC) budget by \$571,000 because of Department estimated that establishing two release dates per month would save inmate transportation and processing costs. Last June the Department revised their Earned Time policy to broaden the number of eligible inmates who could receive credit.

2. Chaplain Reductions

S.L. 2011-145 (Committee Report, Page I-27, Item 87) cut \$1,386,653 and eliminated 25 chaplain positions at minimum and medium custody prisons. At least one chaplain is maintained at each of the 14 close custody prisons. In addition, each prison has a designated staff member to coordinate community volunteers for religious services.

3. Update on Treatment Reserve RFP

S.L. 2011-145 (Committee Report, Page I-30, Item 101) appropriated \$4,138,260 to establish a fund within the Division of Community Corrections to establish fee-for-service contracts for local providers to deliver services to offenders.

4. Update on Criminal Justice Partnership Transition

The Division of Community Corrections is changing the Criminal Justice Partnership Program from a county grant program to a fee-for-service contractual program entitled Treatment for Effective Community Supervision (TECS). The transition will be completed by July 1, 2012.

5. Cell Phones in Prisons

S.L. 2009-560 (SB 167) banned the possession of cell phones in prisons, except as authorized by DOC policy. The Department has explored a number of steps to eliminate cell phone contraband including: searching visitors and staff, using electronic devices, and canine detection.